



## Breached

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# Breached

**Aislinn Cassidy**

**Supervised by: Alistair Heron and Ralf Sander**

Weeding is the process by which we make informed choices in nature, applying our intelligence and sweat to the earth. To weed is to apply culture to nature and the decisions we make, with regard to what constitutes a weed or not. Weeding makes visible some of our irrational and unfounded hierarchical, moral and aesthetic judgements. The systematic management of plant preservation or eradication within protected heritage sites or monuments, such as the Derry Walls, highlights the delicate and precarious distinctions between the prioritisation of the preservation of our past, and the importance of biodiversity and environmental conservation for sustaining our future life.

In the wider context of life and survival, every living thing enters existence autonomously, and so any of our subsequent projections of value upon particular plant species lie solely with anthropocentric ideologies and intentions. Within the context of the current theme of 'Staying Alive,' *Breached* reminds us that, when it comes to making a decision about the life or death of so-called 'weeds', guardedness is essential.

## **On whose dispensation am I the 'weed'?**

I am the forever opportunist  
Breaching your fortified walls.  
The recapitulating inhabitant  
Emerging from the spaces between.  
A formidable ecological imperialist  
Unfettered yet besieged.

I infringe upon your ideological barrier,  
Subverting your constructed perfectionism.  
In your socialised and sanitised world,  
My breaching is a reality.  
And though you act as Earth's self-nominated manager,  
It is in fact you who is the 'weed'.





Grate 22, Derry/Londonderry, City wall



Grate 30, Derry/Londonderry, City wall



Grate 32, Derry/Londonderry, City wall



Grate 37, Derry/Londonderry, City wall



Grate 42, Derry/Londonderry, City wall



Grate 49, Derry/Londonderry, City wall



Grate 52, Derry/Londonderry, City wall



Grate 82, Derry/Londonderry, City wall



Grate 87, Derry/Londonderry, City wall